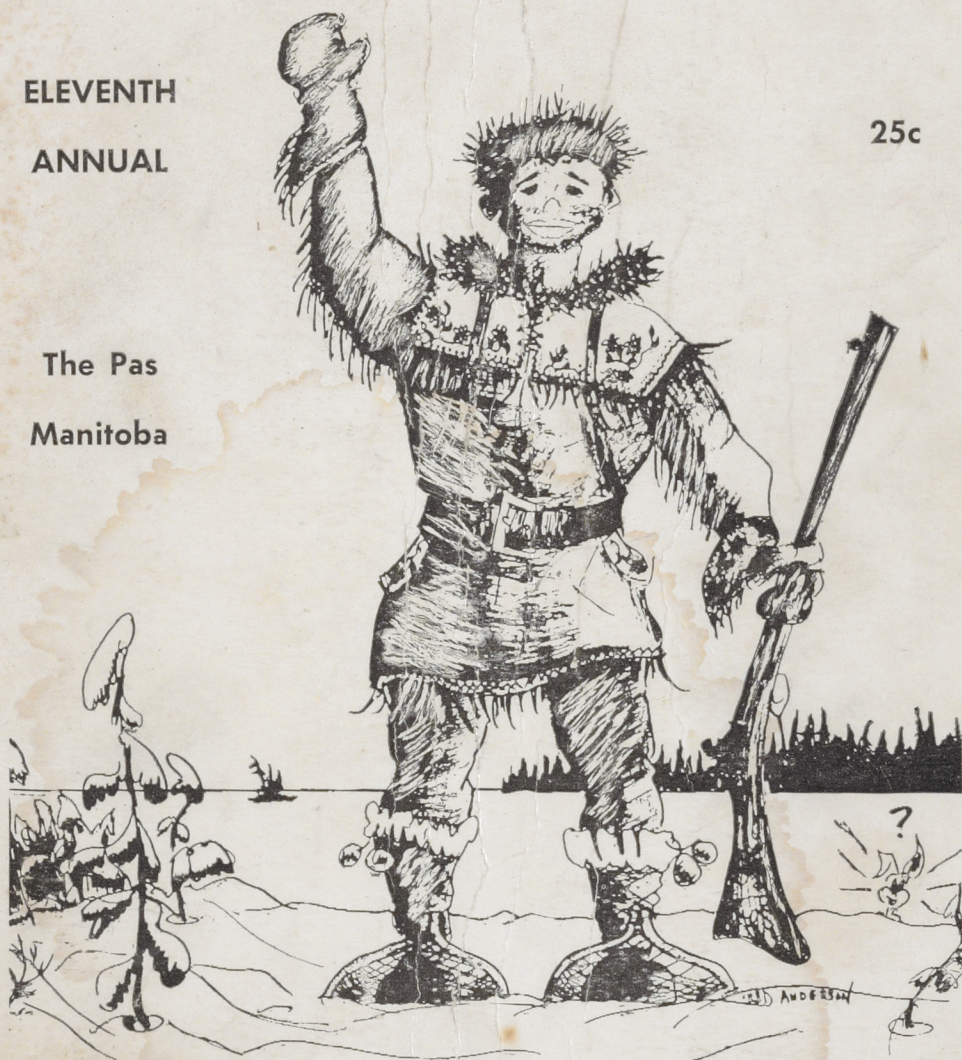


NORTHERN MANITOBA TRAPPERS' FESTIVAL

ELEVENTH
ANNUAL

25c

The Pas
Manitoba



February 26, 27, 28, 1958



Best Wishes to 11th Annual Trappers' Festival

MAY THE DAYS BE AS BRIGHT
AS THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH!

DEPARMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Hon. F. L. JOBIN

M. J. G. McMULLEN

Minister

Deputy Minister



On behalf of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources I extend best wishes for the Eleventh Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival.

The Trappers' Festival is the winter fair for the citizens of Northern Manitoba. It is a time, when, through the combined hard work of many groups, a fun-packed holiday breaks the winter season. The good fellowship, the insight into old ways and old skills, the excitement of dog races and other competitions, are a sure formula for sustained and universal interest. It is therefore no wonder that attendance at the Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival is growing and that registrations include many Americans as well as Canadians from the South.

With the opening up of the North through mine and other developments it would be easy to lose sight of the pioneer industry of Canada, the fur trade. The Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival therefore serves a very important purpose in preserving something of the old ways and I am sure it will still be going strong fifty and more years from now.

(Signed)
F. C. Bell
Minister of Mines and Natural
Resources

General Chairman's Message



The Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival, Chairman and members, wish to take this opportunity to thank our many donors, who have helped to make our Festival possible. We would like particularly to mention The Pas Lumber Company, who since the first years of the Festival, some 11 years ago, have assisted us in many ways. Particularly by sponsoring the Junior Dog Race, and the junior sports. It is through their cash donation and trophy, that we have been able to carry on with our junior sports and dog race, each year.

We would also like to pay tribute to the Hudson's Bay Company, Raw Fur Department, who have, since the first years of the Festival, sponsored the Freight Dog Sled Race, and have supplied the cash prizes and trophy for these past years, and who this year have seen fit to grant the request of the Dog Race Committee, to increase the prize money for this ever growing popular event.

There are many more Donors which, if space were available, we would like to mention individually. As this is not possible at this time, we would ask, that you turn to our prize list and note the number of donors, and ask that you support those who help to make this Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival a gala winter event, the Mardi Gras of Canada, which is gaining in popularity each year.

We would also like to pay tribute to our advertisers, who through their ads support the publication of our annual booklet, which through the medium of its pages, allow us to pass on to people of many lands and to the people of our great Canada, the facts and news of our great north country.

So may we again ask that you support those who help to make this great annual event possible.

W. E. CUDMORE,
General Chairman.



On behalf of the town council and town officials, and all other citizens of The Pas, I wish to extend a sincere welcome to visitors, and congratulations and best wishes to the directorate and members of the eleventh Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival.

A special welcome is in order to John Fisher, Managing Director of the Canadian Tourist Association, but still well known as Canada's Master Story Teller. He is an old friend of the Trappers' Festival and of The Pas.

The thanks of The Pas go to those people, whose names are sometimes not mentioned, who work cheerfully and generously toward the success of this venture.

We hope you have a most enjoyable visit in The Pas, and if you think you might care to make your home here we will be glad to answer your queries.

BOB TAYLOR,
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FESTIVAL**

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The Pas, Man.

**FESTIVAL GREETINGS
TO ALL VISITORS**

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Those Were The Days

By FRED KERR

So you wish me to write about trappers of the days gone by and to mention some of my experiences, earlier, when travelling on the H.B. Rly.

But which of these should I mention? There are so many. Should I tell about my memory of George Morton leaving our summer place at Cormorant, in the early evening paddling evenly in heavily loaded canoe with winters supplies headed towards the setting sun and Moose Island for a H.B. stop. Two strokes of the paddle then change to the other side.

Or should I tell about the lads who trapped before the days of the "kicker" who spent one month "outside", one month to reach their main camp, crossing lakes, navigating rivers and crossing portage. How they would immediately start preparing for winter by preserving berries, especially moss berries, hanging fish for the dogs, digging vegetables they had planted before leaving for the steel, building new out camps, caring for their dogs which had been boarded out with a trapper who chose to remain in the North and who looked after dogs belonging to several trappers for \$20.00 for each dog that came through alive.

It took courage, tenacity, and initiative to be a trapper in those days. Good dogs were a must. More than one trapper can thank his dogs for getting him to a doctor when he was ill. Perhaps you'd like to hear about the trapper who altered an earlier decision not to trap, bought a team of dogs and mushed to his main camp. There he found his cabin hung inside with furs, his traps set he did not know where and a dead man in his bed.

Or should I bring to mind the times I've been on the "muskeg" when it would stop for a trapper, waiting in a storm, and after his dogs and baggage were loaded, come into the coach with the

hair on his parka filled with snow, his cheeks red from the wind off the barren land and snow on his whiskers and eyebrows.

It might be more in line if you'd give me time to tell how Messett came to be called "doctor Messett" which title stayed with him for over a month. It was when the baby was born on the train. The baby, called Bayline Flett lived but sad to say the mother died.

Of course we shall never forget Tom Borthwick's pressure cooker that turned out such mulligan. Tom always insisted the meat was always the best Beef he could buy.

Most fur buyers can take a joke so why should Cooper get sore when Johnnie Searle discovered him sleeping in his underwear with a couple of buttons loose and proceeded to apply a double handful of snow at that vital opening.

Perhaps I should go farther back and tell about trappers who came to the steel with their catch, sold for cash, proceeded to celebrate and felt lucky when, on awakening next morning found the twenty dollar bills they had th own hither skithier, safely gathered and handed back to them. Or back further still when Mile 81 was an important stop and when the diamond queen reigned verbally in the scullery. What quantities of furs converged there with their trapper-owners!

Soon 214 was a very important point with trappers from all directions gathering there with their furs to meet the buye s. Bob Long the Chinaman and his Indian wife looked after their appetites. Luke Clemons (was he really Mark Twain's nephew?) brought huge quantities down from the North by gas car and by dog team from his and other posts. Luke had the contract to carry mail. I saw one cancelled cheque my late father, J. R. Kerr, gave him for \$30,000 for white foxes alone. But I'm

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getting nowhere with my story as the important fur points gradually pushed north to 256 and then to 327 and then 356 then on to Herchmer 412 and finally to the country of the fox trappers, Churchill.

I could spend a whole hour telling about white fox trappers and how they came down with five to 10 thousand dollars worth of whites, sold them for cash, hired a suite of rooms in a hotel, hired a taxi by the day—well you must know what they would do when they said “we worked hard to get it and we’ll play hard to spend it.”

Were there three or four Buckholtz Bros? I know there were three Adolfsen Brothers who trapped in the pre-kicker days in the South Indian, Seal River district. Two bought farms in Manitoba and the other returned to Sweden and set his folks up with a model farm there. It was quite common for the winters catch to total five or six thousand but in those days all furs were marketable, marten were plentiful.

Possibly you have listened to a group of farmers at a get together when the subject would be about cattle, grain, tractors, or prior, about horses and how they could pull. But you’ve heard nothing until you hear a group of old time trappers, on the muskeg—anywhere—when they begin to wax warm about their dog team, their various methods of “sets” for foxes or snares for beaver, or how they make their moccasins, two pairs, deer hide inside pair and moose hide moccasins on the outside with six pairs of socks.

Or better still if Joe Chambers tells some of his experiences with polar bears or the “Human derrick.” Wm. McKech-nie who lifted 800 pounds on a bet at Churchill and took few steps. I believe it was Angus McIvor that told men you can still see his footsteps in the solid limestone there at Churchill.

Frank Hogan was the only game warden and Teddy Stevenson the only fish inspector. Teddy used to hire a pony and drove around “visiting” the fishermen using a horse toboggan. Frank was pretty good natured until they started shooting ducks when he was in church and the shots were so clear and embarrassing but not so much as when he

tried to stop this being done on Sunday and Frechettes red bull kept him on top of a hay stack most of the afternoon.

I used to take my hat off to Alf Fenner in the old days. He did a bang up job raising that big family of his. I went with him on one of his Fall bear trapping trips. Alf and his family, in those days, really lived off the country. He claimed bear fat in the fall was better than lard for his winter supplies. In the spring an old custom was to pack the eggs, gathered daily from those big gulls, in salt. He smoked and dried fish, they cured moose meat and put it up in sealers. The sight of all those wild berries they canned was really something—gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, junberries, mossberries and what have you. Mrs. Fenner used to go to Red Deer Lake near Barrows where her folks lived in the spring and made maple syrup and sugar. Alf’s garden was really something and ripe tomatoes on Ducks and geese in the late fall from the vines were quite common place, the little lakes midway on the little frog creek lasted them well on into the winter. They knew then that moose hides were meant for parkas and moc-casin and not merely to keep the bulldogs off the moose.

One old timer who could really tell you about fur in bulk would be Dick Davidson at Wabowden. Try to have him make at least one trip to The Pas to learn how it has changed since he was station agent here back in the twenties. He could tell you about the tough four day trips with horses hauling freight to Nelson House by W. E. W. Hutty who traded there. W. E. W. went there as a missionary then became a trader, but always a heart a missionary. What a man! Beth was born there.

At the Eventide Home, Ed Bertrum, trapper then trader, could recall the old days. Especially, away back when fur prices were extremely high, taking a sudden drastic drop. No radios in those days so when trappers at the steel learned of the lower prices there was a general race with dog team; hauling fur to distant outposts with a view to unloading their fur before the mail man brought the news to the unsuspecting trader inland. Rod McLeod could recall

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many a trip with dogs loaded heavily with trappers' supplies on a forgotten phase of fur buying called toboggan trading. They hauled supplies direct to the trappers cabin and brought fur back.

There was great rivalry between the big companies and the "free trader" in those days. Arthur Jan or Bob Hyslop could entertain you for hours telling of their experiences. Tom Wykstand could remember away back as he has trapped over 35 years. He sold 80 beaver off his trap line the year he was 70 years old.

I don't remember if it was August Nelson or Walter (our Walter) Johnson who had most to do about pushing for registered trap lines. August can tell more yarns than any fur buyer. I often wonder if that yarn about the bear is true? August had bought a new stove for his camp. Some visitors camped nearby had supplies left over when they departed, leaving them inside the new stove away from mice. Brother Bruin broke into the camp smelled the bacon, pushed his head into one of the stove lid holes and could not get free. What a shambles he made of the camp. Bear nor stove were never found. There was a deep river close to the camp.

Often 214 was a grand rush for fur buyers. Often a dozen trappers with their fur and only about 30 minutes in which to grade and value. Wonder what Major McLaughlin really thought when I pushed my fur money at him and asked him to pay the trappers while I rushed on with another parcel of fur. He seemed to enjoy himself. Thanks again, Major.

So Joe Robertson says the caribou herds are growing steadily weaker in numbers. He must be right but when one looks back it would seem impossible. On one trip we really had a treat sitting in the coaches we saw miles of them from our windows. On the basis of figuring so many between telephone poles, so many poles to the mile and the distance we travelled with the herds in sight I estimated I actually saw over 100,000 from the train and trappers said they were 15 to 20 miles deep in the border barren land bush.

Once when I had son John along for an Easter holiday trip, a herd closely packed stopped the train. Many a time Joe Lacharite had to fairly crawl his engine through the slowly drifting herds. We were standing in the baggage

car with side door open when the portion of the herd decided not to cross the track but turned and rushed down the right-of-way just below us where we stood watching them. Missionaries and trappers spoke of travelling four and five days through these migrating scattered herds of caribou.

Signs posted in public places read something like this: "It is unlawful to kill caribou for dog feed where fish is available". One trapper with those big husky dogs would require 150 to 200 caribou for a season. Not only did they serve as food but the fresh kills tended to attract foxes so they would remain "anchored". What used to make Dan Austin angry was when he had to make those patrols to check reports on hundreds of caribou killed for their tongues alone, which is a delicacy.

Emile Buss and Harry Pienowsky, whose camp located on the edge of the barren lands at 442, and called "Trappers' Hall" were typical. What wonderful dogs they used. From the main camp at the steel they travelled up to 150 to 200 miles on their lines with outcamps placed at strategic spots. Very very seldom did one trapper encroach on another man's ground though no law prevented that practice. Harry and Emile discarded their dogs for a snow machine when feeding dogs caribou was prohibited.

White fox trappers were "starved out" if they missed the caribou trek. The timber wolves followed the caribou and the white foxes tended to follow the timbers. No white fox trapper could carry sufficient dog feed for his dogs for the season so they were just out of luck for that season. Their supplies were so great and their risks so many that traders often took out life insurance on the trapper to protect his investment.

You call me an old timer. I look upon these others as old timers. Possibly they in turn have their old timers in mind. It seems such a pity that there are such scanty records either in book form or in motion pictures or even in song to keep the old times of the old timers alive.

Well, Mr. Editor, I guess I'll have to pass. Can't think of anything to write about.

Perhaps I can think of something for the next Festival.

GOOD SHOW! . . .

Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival

Management and Staff

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In Memoriam



HENRY FISHMAN

With deep regret the Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival records the sudden passing of its founder and Past General Chairman Henry Fishman on the Fourth day of February 1958.

Henry's contribution to the Festival throughout the years has been great, and while the past few years his attendance at our meetings has been missed by all, his good council in matters pertaining to the welfare of our organization, has always been sought and considered. May the guiding spirit of Henry Fishman ever be present with us.

Best of Luck to the
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(Murray McKenzie)

THE WINNERS — The 1957 Trappers Festival Queen, Mrs. W. Aitkenhead, (Leola Despina), with Doctor Roland Lombard of Auburndale, Mass., U.S.A. and his lead dog, winner of the World's Championship Dog Derby, 1957 running, The Pas, Manitoba.

Wildlife Display

An indoor display in the Legion Hall during the Festival includes two exhibits from the Dept. of Industry and Commerce of a large map of Manitoba showing recent northern development and a "Know Manitoba Better" display of scenes in Manitoba.

Also included in this building is a booth by the Manitoba Forest Service, a model of the Pasquia Land Development, Fish specimens, Game and Air

Service exhibits, all by the Dept. of Mines & Natural Resources.

To round out this display Mr. Frame of Flin Flon will show his collection of stuffed animals.

As usual the outdoor display includes a number of native big game and fur bearers frozen into natural position and may be seen on the vacant lot at the corner of 3rd and Edwards Ave.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Our Forests

By C. H. PATTERSON
(District Forester)

We, who live north of the 53rd parallel, are well aware that nature has richly endowed this region with green forests which we hope will, in the not too distant future, provide a continuous supply of pulpwood for a paper mill in this area. From a purely economic point of view then, it is imperative that we protect this great natural resource from its greatest enemy, fire. Since statistics have revealed that man was responsible for 60 percent of all the fires in this area, the Forest Service undertook a stepped up program of education to enlighten and solicit the co-operation of every man, woman and child in the North. Radio station CFAR, Flin Flon has been invaluable in this respect.

Last summer an Essay Contest was sponsored by CFAR, under the direction of the manager Buck Witney. This Contest was open to anyone, all they had to do was complete this opening sentence in two hundred words or less, "I pledge to do all I can to prevent forest fires because . . ."

The prize was an amateur radio donated by radio station CFAR. There were over two hundred entrants, which was most gratifying.

Claude A. Joyce of 359 Princess Blvd., Flin Flon, Manitoba, was one of the entrants and I would like to reprint here the essay he submitted. This essay was considered to be a good expression of what our forests should mean to each one of us and why we should do our part to protect them.

"I pledge to do all that I can to prevent forest fires because I believe that what was conceived in the Creation is meant for the use of the present generation as well as for those who will take our places in the future. Because I find it pleasing to view the soft verdure of the forests on rocky slopes, to hear the warble and whistle of woodland songsters, to peer into the haunts and lairs of fox and fawn, to have my

sight gladdened by the myriad colors of wild flowers and fruits. The stream, running like a ribbon through soft tresses, gladdens me with its babble, quenches the thirst of the forest denizens, and gives a home to the finned creatures that rise to my lure. And when, having surfeited me with summer's green, the whole forest puts on a raiment of kaleidoscopic color, my heart swells with the joy of having seen once more the full cycle of seasonal change.

"And with all this before me, how could I ever face my soul again if by one glowing match, one careless butt, one neglected ember, I should cause its destruction. If through my selfish carelessness I set loose the holocaust of flame to denude the birches and the pines, to slaughter life in the nest and the burrow, to sear the rose and the columbine, then I will have failed myself, my God, and mankind, and being sorry to the infinite degree can restore neither what I have destroyed nor my peace of mind. For the tranquility the forest brings to those who seek its depths I will have substituted barren ashes, devastation where there was life, and proud trees that once cast shielding shade to filter out the sun's fierce rays shall now raise mutely towards the sky charred trunks as though imploring mercy from mankind. If the guilt of such carelessness is laid to me, then I must suffer an inferno of remorse, for I have robbed my fellow man and his children of the beauty, the use, and the pleasures of the forest."

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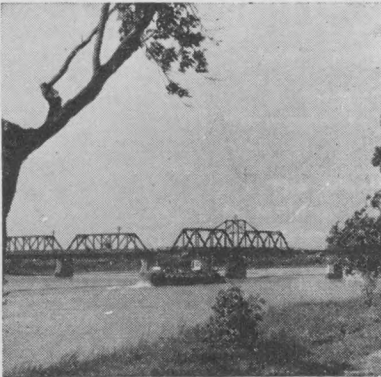
Miss Flin Flon



MARLENE CRAIG

Miss Marlene Craig, representing the Smelter Recreational Club will be trying this year to give Flin Flon the title of Miss Fur Queen for 1958.

Marlene is 23 years old, has strawberry-blond hair, stands 5' 2" and weighs 110 pounds. She was born in Star City and came to Flin Flon in 1952. At present she is employed in the Royal Bank of Canada as a teller. Her main activities and interests are curling, skating, golf, music and dancing.



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Miss Churchill



EVELYN BEREZA

Evelyn Bereza is 20 years of age. Her height is 5' 4½", weight, 124 pounds, brown eyes, brown hair, measurements 36"-26"-36".

Evelyn was born in the town of Rossburn, Manitoba. Her parents, four brothers, and three sisters lived on a farm for many years. She attended the Rossburn School, and received her Grade X diploma.

Evelyn went to Winnipeg with her sister in 1955, and found employment with The T. Eaton Company as a checker. Ten months later she worked for the Outlet Store in Winnipeg as a clerk-cashier. In May of 1956 she came to Churchill, and has been working for the Regimental Institutes in the Fort Churchill Commissary as a cashier.

Her hobbies include, crotcheting, reading, baseball and volleyball, cooking and dancing. She once attended the Arthur Murray Studio for Dancing.

She is interested in most sports, especially hockey, home economics, good movies, fashions, her campaign manager, and winning the Trappers Festival Queen Contest.

Miss The Pas



RUTH THORSTENSON

The Pas' Ruth was born some 23 years ago at Kinistino, Saskatchewan, and at a very early age moved to Wabowden, with her family. Following high school at Wabowden, Ruth clerked for the Hudson Bay Company Post there for five years, and has worked in The Pas since 1955.

Ruth is truly a "daughter of the North". She is talented at music and plays the piano and piano-acordian "as you like it". Where group entertainment is a must, Ruth excels in her talent. Outdoor hobbies include skating, baseball and swimming. Ruth is 5' 2", and weighs 150 pounds.

Ruth can cook and sew with skill. Her vigor and vitality is an asset to the whole community and her cheerful countenance and ready wit and smile are always welcome.

As The Pas' candidate for Queen of the Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival, her committee feel that Ruth truly has captured the spirit of this northern Manitoba community.

HELLO TRAPPERS FESTIVAL AGAIN

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Margaret McConnell

Gillam

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Success to the Trappers Festival

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Mr. and Mrs. G. R. King

In Gillam 12 Years

GILLAM, MANITOBA

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TO

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Trappers' Festival



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The Pas, Man.

Gillam

Queen Candidates



BEVERLY GORDON

Beverly is 18 years old, reddish blond hair and blue eyes. She works with her father at Gillam in the General Store. Her hobbies are dancing, tobogganing and bowling.

SARAH NEEPIN

Miss Sarah Neepin is 20 years old, 5' 2" tall, weighs 110 pounds, has dark hair and sparkling brown eyes.

She was born in Gillam and spent all her life there except for her years of schooling in Prince Albert, Sask. She is employed as a waitress in the C.N. Restaurant at Gillam.

Her father was a pioneer trapper—she is a true daughter of the North.

Sarah is very fond of skating, bowling and dancing.

Sarah is sponsored by the Gillam Community Club.



WE HOPE THAT ALL VISITORS TO THE 1958

Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival

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THE PAS

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The Pas, Manitoba

Miss

Cranberry Portage



BEVERLEY HATCH

Beverley Hatch, is 18 years old, and a green-eyed brunette. She is 5' 2" with a creamy complexion and a ready smile.

History—Born in Amaranth, Manitoba, she moved from Runnymede, Saskatchewan to Cranberry Portage where she received her education. Beverley attended Success Commercial College in Winnipeg and is now a stenographer for the Bell Telephone Co. at Cranberry Portage. She is a Gold Cord Guide and a Guide leader.

Hobbies—Her interests cover wide fields and she is at present Vice-president of the Ladies Curling Club, Secretary of the Cranberry Camera Club, likes music, skating, curling, swimming and badminton. Beverley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barnes, the C.N.R. agent for Cranberry Portage.

Beverley is being sponsored by the Midget Hockey and Baseball Club of Cranberry Portage.

Northern Rail

Development

A new rail line to tap the rich mineral resources of a base metal mining area 75 miles north of The Pas will be mapped out this winter by a Canadian National Railways ground survey crew. The survey began this month (January) and construction of the line is expected to start next spring or summer and end by 1960.

The new 52-mile spur line, which will be built by the CNR under an agreement with the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd., will run from Optic Lake a few miles north of Cranberry Portage northeastward to Chisel Lake. Optic Lake is just a few miles north of Cranberry Portage, junction of the Hudson Bay Railway and the CNR's Lynn Lake line.

The survey crew now slashing its way through the northern Manitoba bushland is headed by Major J. L. Charles, CNR consulting engineer who, for 40 years, has been associated with railway building in Manitoba's north. He played a leading role in the building of the Hudson Bay Railway from The Pas to Churchill and directed operations when the spur line from Sherridon to Lynn Lake was constructed in 1953.

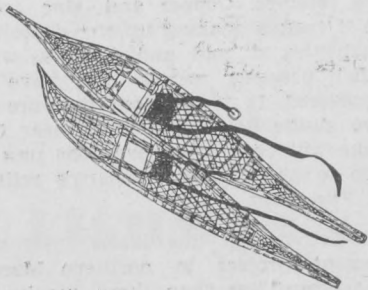
At Chisel Lake where the proposed new spur line will terminate, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. has proven five million tons of base-metal ore reserves. Copper and zinc are the chief metals making up the deposit, but quantities of gold and silver as well as other precious metals also have been uncovered. It is proposed that ore from two shafts now being sunk near Chisel Lake will be carried over the new spur line to the mining company's refineries at Flin Flon.

Activity on this latest CNR development project in northern Manitoba has begun less than three months since the new spur line, connecting International Nickel Company's Thompson mine site with the Hudson Bay Railway, was officially opened.

The original survey for this line also was conducted by the CNR under the direction of Major Charles during the winter of 1957. Although built by INCO, a bill has been tabled in the House of Commons to allow the CNR to acquire the line and reimburse INCO for the construction costs.

At the ceremonies marking the opening of this line last October 20, S. F. Dingle, vice-president, operation, Montreal, epitomized the CNR's attitude toward Canada's northland when he said: "If one thing stands out in my memory it is the part the CNR has played in the development of northern Canada. Through prosperity and depression, boom and readjustment, call the cycle what you will, our people have sung the praises and paraded the promises of Northern Canada. It has taken a long time to pay off, but all around us today is more evidence that another promise has come true. One more community in the making—a further addition to our already rich material heritage."

In the years ahead, an increasing emphasis on northern transportation routes can be expected. There will be a need for new branch lines to penetrate this northern frontier, and, the CNR, realizing its responsibility in this respect, has been and is continuing to maintain a careful study of the various potentials in these areas.



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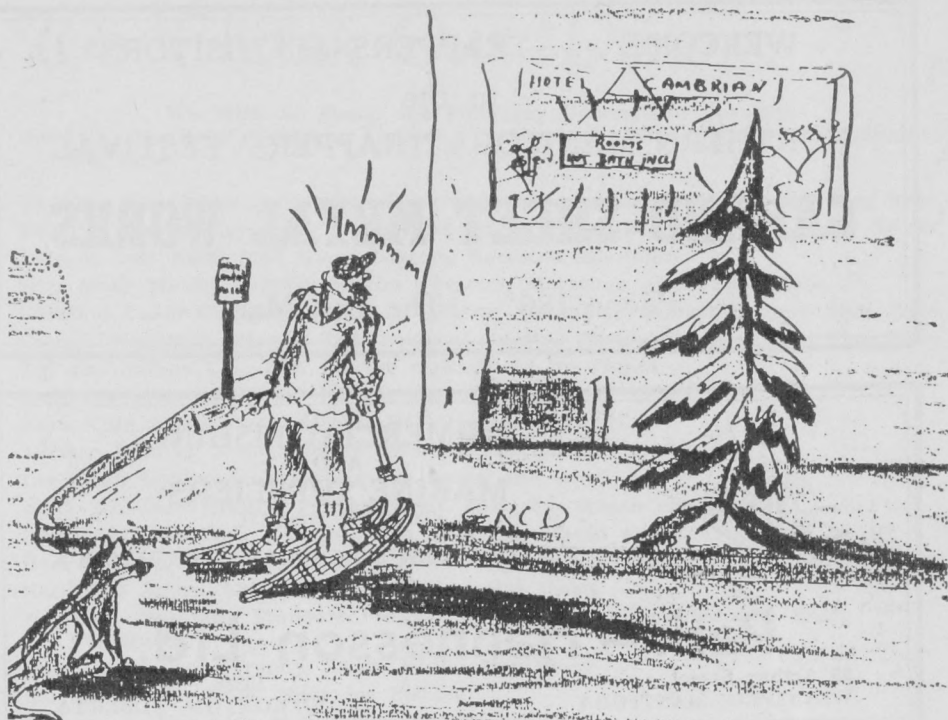
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Northland Drugs, \$15.00 Goose Calling.

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Lido Theatre, \$15.00 North Pole Climbing Contest.

Davidson's Meat Market, \$10.00 Fish Eating Contest.

Mederic Poirier, \$10.00 Heaviest Couple Contest.

Allouette Hotel, \$20.00 Street Dancing.

The Dial, \$15.00 Junior Snowshoe Potato Race and Sack Race.

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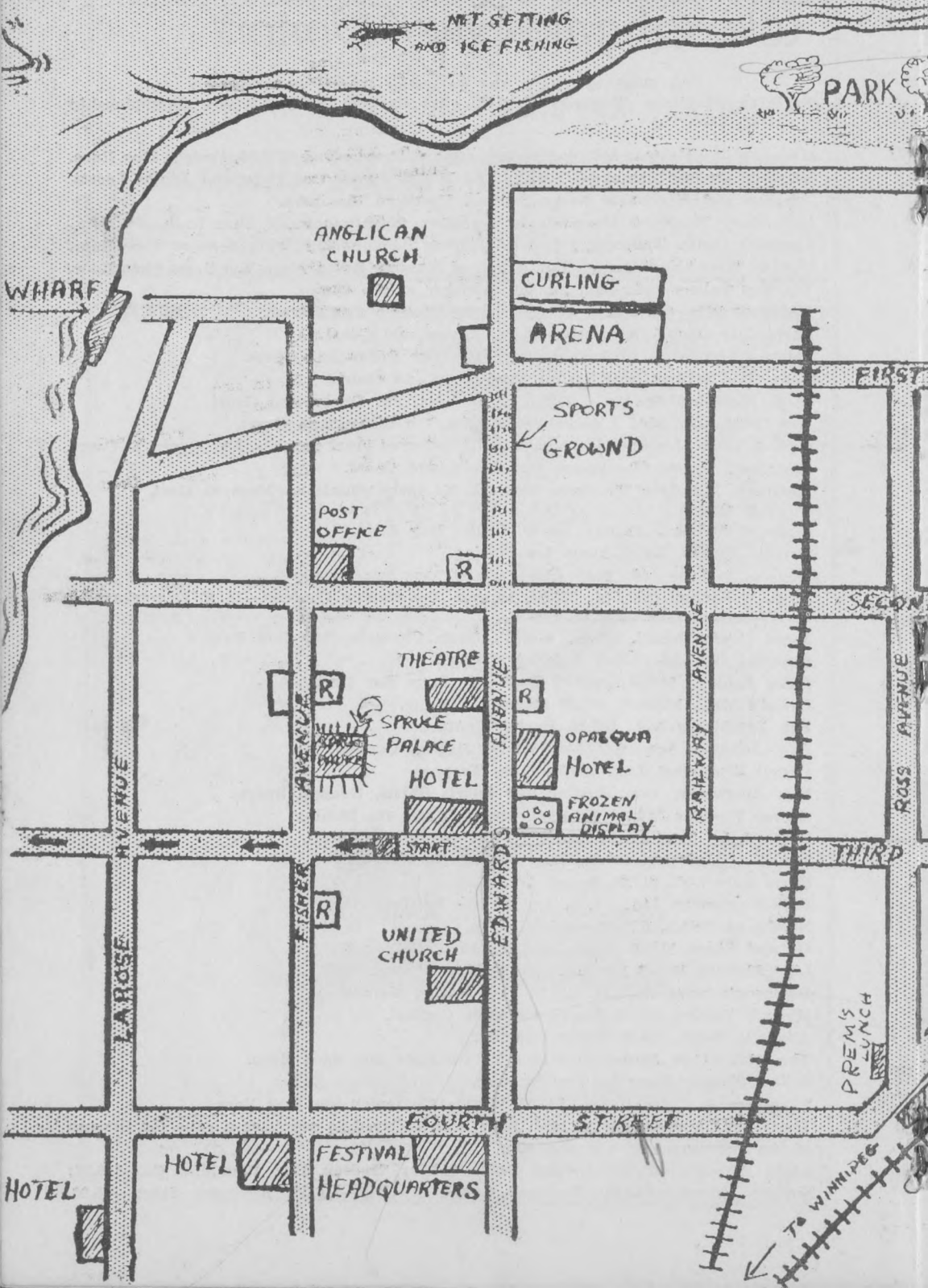
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Hair Stylings—Lee Stevens

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Master of Ceremonies—L. McDiarmid

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# Lynn Lake School Band

A musical organization of over 75 school students is the pride of the mining community of Lynn Lake, the northern Manitoba mining centre. Called "The Lynn Lake School Band" when formed two years ago, this concert band will within the very near future join the ranks of Western Canada's symphonic bands, an accomplishment very few schools or communities in Manitoba have attempted.

With initial cost totalling over \$3,000, the band today has equipment valued at over \$15,000. Well-known in The Pas and Flin Flon where they have performed, the group is smartly uniformed and complete in instrumentation, including besides standard instruments, an oboe, bassoon, string basses, baritone saxophone and French horns.

In October, 1955, the band programme was set before a group of interested Lynn Lake citizens by two school teachers, Larry Ratcliffe and Stan Turner, both of whom were trained in this type of work in British Columbia and Alberta. Headed by Ken Jasper, school principal, an Association was formed, which has handled the financing of the band since that time. The first group of students received their instruments in December of that year.

After several concerts in the spring term, a second group was started, building the band to over 60 pieces. The third group of junior members joined the organization last September, bringing the band membership close to 80. All instruction is given daily, at noon hours or after school, by the two directors, Mr. Turner handling the brass and Mr. Ratcliffe the woodwinds. Mr. Jasper has instructed the string bass

section, and Father Lapalme, local Catholic priest, the percussion.

An adult committee, now headed by Ralph Mitchell, chief engineer, and Lila Kennedy, another teacher, has undertaken not only the financing, but also the other tasks that face such a group as this.

Other members included Ted Burke-Gaffney, treasurer since the band was founded; Isabel Ruttan, Band Mothers' president; Mrs. Darie Turner, secretary; Bob Dawes, Harry Martin, Father Lapalme, the band directors, Mr. Jasper (past president), Marge Mitchell, Hazel Muter, and two student representatives.

Highlights of the band's brief history include a festival trip to The Pas an appearance as guests of the Flin Flon and Flin Flon in the spring of 1956, Rotary Club at their annual fair last August, a clinic and joint concert with the nucleus of the Winnipeg Symphony in Lynn Lake in the fall of last year, and numerous indoor and outdoor concerts in Lynn Lake.

Students who join take one year of basic instruction in a junior band, and then, individually, talented members are moved into the crack Advanced Section, at present a 28-piece group. Students who do not qualify remain as Juniors, and have the opportunity to advance whenever they are considered ready.

Future plans include concerts in Lynn Lake with various groups from other Manitoba centres, including the RCAF Band from Winnipeg; a trip to Colorado for a special summer music camp for several this summer; and trips to other northern communities in the coming school year. A visit to Winnipeg for "Band Day" next Easter, with several concerts enroute, is also scheduled.



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# Predator Control

By JOE ROBERTSON  
(Conservation Officer)

What is a predator? A predator is an animal that is competing with the *Homo sapiens* for certain game and when the *Homo sapiens* feels that there is not sufficient for both, he immediately brands the animal competitor for this game as a predator. In Manitoba, the main animal so branded is the wolf.

The timber wolf, known as the wolf that lives in the heavier timbered areas of Northern Manitoba and which preys mainly on moose and deer, is scientifically classified as *Canis Lupis Knightii*. The average wolf has a range of some 60 square miles as he lives on non-migrating game.

In the most northern part of the Province, approximately from the 58th parallel north, we have what is termed the caribou wolf, or *Canis Lupis Hudsonicus*. This wolf preys mostly on the barren ground caribou and is by far the most plentiful wolf in Manitoba. The main difference in this species is his range. The migrating barren ground caribou being his main food makes it necessary for him to follow these animals on their long migrations, which cover many hundreds of miles from the provinces to the Northwest Territories. These wolves average about 100 pounds each. They come in many colors, shades from black to white, but never in a patchy color such as a black wolf with white patches or spots. The lighter colors are more predominant in the far north.

Two timber wolves can take the largest moose with ease. Rarely are they injured or killed in taking their game. They take the deer and caribou as a fox would a rabbit.

Wolf control is a very controversial subject. There are two schools of thought on this subject and most often each individual feels his theory is right and is not prepared to meet the other fellow half way.

One theory is: Kill no wolf . . . let nature cure all.

The other theory is: Kill every wolf

. . . exterminate the species.

The "do not kill" supporters are those men (and of en scientific men) who maintain the wolves keep your game herds healthy by taking only sick or weak animals.

The "exterminate" supporters are often people directly affected by the wolf-take of game and, when they find themselves short, immediately, without too much thought to the complete picture, demand extermination of the species.

Each school of thought is partly right as in the first instance wolves do not kill only weak and sick animals. The main predation is on the calves of game animals and the young animals are most important to the survival of the herd. Also, if the combined predation of man and wolf is too heavy for the herd to support, the herd will suffer by greatly reduced numbers. Whereas, in the second instance, if the wolf were exterminated, the eventual health of the game herds would deteriorate as the wolves do kill weak and sick animals and most often these first.

Man, who is naturally lazy, unless he must hunt for food and not just for sport, will hunt only those areas where there is easy access to game. At present, with Northern Manitoba being large and thinly populated, it is not possible for man alone to properly keep down the number of big game animals in all areas without the help of wolves so there would be proper harmony between the game animal and the available habitat. Consequently, in certain areas, food would be depleted and animals would eventually die off. Sickness would appear along with starvation. Habitat, being greatly harmed from over-browsing, would take years to come back sufficiently to support any number of game animals again.

Most game managers now recognize the need for "control" of wolves and endeavour to exercise this control in areas where most required, such as areas where deer or caribou numbers



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are decreasing or have been deleted by over-predation and where range can support more animals. Where wolves penetrate into farming areas and become a menace to farmers' stock, every effort is made to clear the areas of wolves and usually there is no ill effect to the game animal as usually the hunters can crop the game sufficiently in these easily-accessible areas.

In recent years there has been a change from control of a predator by a bounty system to Government Hunter.

In 1948 it was recognized that the \$10.00 bounty system was not controlling the wolf numbers in Northern Manitoba. In fact, the wolves were increasing to the detriment of big game animals. It was then game officers commenced poisoning wolves by strychnine poison. Information on wolf runs was obtained from trappers and fish or meat treated with strychnine and set out in winter months. The bait is frozen to the ice so that the wolves cannot carry it from the site. Two small spruce trees are set out as markers to attract the wolves to the site and as a marker for the officer when checking his bait stations. A sign is set out warning the public of the location of the bait station.

As many as 24 wolves have been taken at one of these stations. Several seasons in recent years over 500 dead wolves have been counted at these bait stations. Many more were killed and buried in deep snow when the stations were checked and could not be seen.

The cost of taking wolves by this method has been a low of \$8.66 in one season to a high of \$12.00 in the highest season.

It is considered that a wolf may take as many as 25 moose or 50 caribou or deer in one year and that this control has greatly reduced the annual kill of our big game animals. We have learned the wolf runs to the 60th parallel and when working in co-operation with the Federal Government on caribou wolf control, wolf runs were set by Provincial Game Officers in southern Keewatin of the Northwest Territories.

Manitoba has held a series of meetings with neighboring provinces and from these meetings we have better been able to co-ordinate the various wolf control programs with better results and less cost.

Predator control has added considerable work to the northern officers. Most of the bait setting takes place during January. North of the 57th parallel at this time you can expect 40 to 50 degree below zero temperatures. The Manitoba Government aircraft and crews supply the transportation for the far north work and individual officers set all areas accessible by bombardier and railway gas car.

Often a week or 10 days is spent placing out poison baits in the northern part of the province to reduce the number of caribou wolves that have been preying on the diminishing barren ground caribou herds. When this is possibly your third season in this area and just when you feel your hard work is paying dividends in reduced numbers of wolves, you are further overjoyed to be advised by some well-meaning individual, "Rabies sure must have killed the wolves because there just aren't very many wolves anymore."

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## **Message From The Queen**



I am very happy to have this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone for the friendship and help so generously given to aid me in gaining the title Fur Queen of 1957.

I would also like to extend thanks to the Trapper's Festival Committee for arranging a very interesting and enjoyable trip to Winnipeg for the princesses and myself.

Wishing the Northern Manitoba Trapper's Festival continued success.

Mrs. Bill Aitkenhead,  
(nee) Leola Despins,  
Fur Queen of 1957.



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several hands before it reaches the consumer. Fishermen sell to the local dealer, who in turn ships to a wholesale company in Winnipeg where it is sold on the local market, shipped to other provinces or exported to the U.S.A. As fish are highly perishable, it is of utmost importance that a high standard of sanitation be maintained at all times, adequate refrigeration be provided and correct temperatures maintained. Having this in mind, the two Departments concerned have emphasized the importance of improved handling facilities and sanitation.

In order to maintain a supply of fish for the commercial trade, lake surveys are necessary. A lake survey contains such information as to depth, temperature, alkalinity, degree of turbidity, description of aquatic vegetation and composition of the lake bottom. Gill nets of various sizes are set and fish caught are thoroughly examined. Scale samples are taken for age determination. These surveys are conducted by our field staff and the information gathered is then forwarded to our Fisheries Biologist who in turn studies the results and recommends production quotas, e.c. All fish are examined for parasites and should they be found to be infested beyond the tolerance permitted, they are not sold for human consumption but are processed and used for animal food.

## SPORT FISHING

The God's River is particularly noted for Brook Trout, where a record trout was taken three years ago. Five pound Brook Trout are common in this river.

The following species of sport fish may be taken in various waters in Northern Manitoba: Great Northern Pike, Lake Trout, Walleye, Pike, Speckled Trout, Rainbow Trout, Grayling, Gold-eye, Whitefish (fly fishing).

In September of 1957, three small lakes adjacent to the Cuprus Mine on the No. 10 Highway were poisoned with derris root. Actually, this is not a poisonous substance but it affects the gill movements and the fish dies through lack of oxygen, and floats to the surface. It is then removed. Approximately six weeks time is required for the lake to become purified before it may be restocked with the desired species. Present plans call for the restocking of these lakes with 50,000 Rainbow and Speckled Trout fingerlings early in June of this year.



# The Fishing Industry

By J. F. HEARD

## COMMERCIAL FISHING

The Commercial Fishing Industry in Northern Manitoba is now of major importance, which materially affects the welfare of 650 licensed fishermen and their families. Many more also gain a livelihood from the various subsidies to fishing.

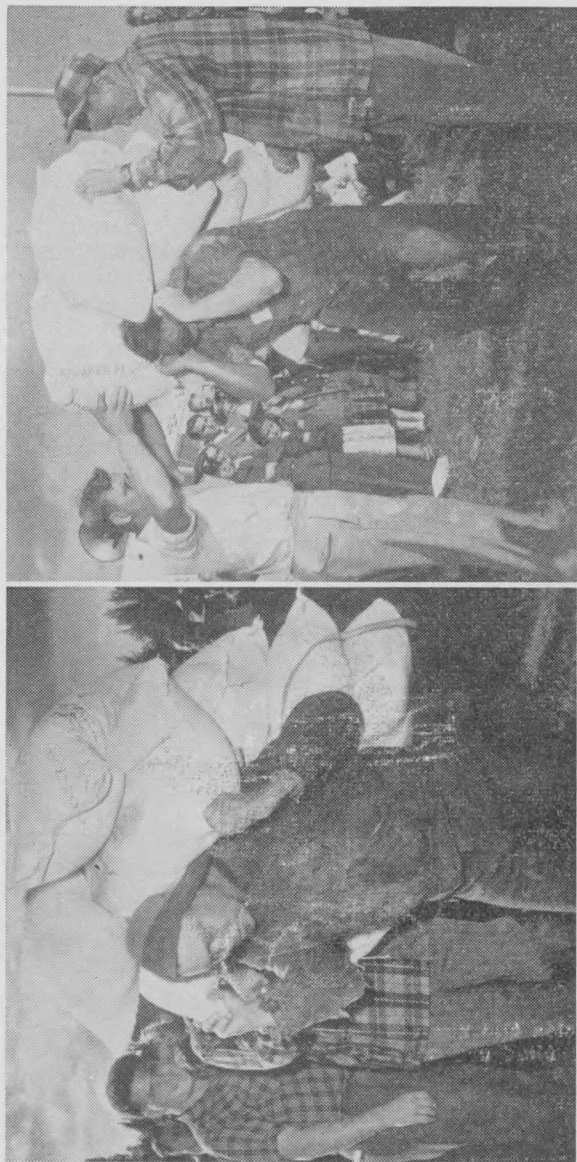
North of the 53rd parallel, our annual production of this important and nutritious food is over 5½ million pounds with a net value to the fishermen of some \$600,000.

Fish produced for the commercial trade is now of very good quality, which is due to a quality improvement program being carried on throughout the North by the Provincial Department of Health and the Fisheries Branch.

Better handling and transportation facilities have been established throughout the North, with the result that our product is now reaching the consumer in excellent condition.

The system of marketing fish in Manitoba is such that it passes through





A big attraction at the annual Trout Festival, held annually at Flin Flon is the packing contest, where sacks of flour weighing up to 500 and 600 pounds are carried over a stated course.



# Tourism In The North

By ROY VICKERY  
(for the Manitoba Tourist Assoc.)

Catering to the visitor or tourist is no longer considered a part time hobby, but rather is a very important Industry that effects each and everyone of us every day economically. Many don't realize that it is not just the Tourist Operators that benefit from the Tourist, but that everyone in the area benefits.

The Provincial Government published the results of a recent survey whereby they stated that only 12 cents of every Tourist Dollar went directly to the Tourist Operator whereas Hotels, Garages, Restaurants, Clothing Outlets, Souvenir Stores and other businesses generally, received the other 88 cents.

The Tourist coming to Northern Manitoba has many attractions, unexcelled fishing and hunting, numerous beautiful lakes for boating, bathing, canoe trips, camping, family vacation, historic sites and campsites provided by the provincial government.

The visitor himself often sees the opportunity of new enterprise in his travels thus creating new business, added employment and financial investment.

The people of Northern Manitoba certainly do not have to ever feel that they have nothing to offer the visitor but rather on the contrary. In our everyday association with all the natural things about us, that we take for granted and become accustomed to, it might be well for us to think about them and to realize that the visitor has possibly travelled a long way just to see The Pas, the big Saskatchewan river, with the boats on it hauling fish and freight, a business where raw furs are actually purchased from the trappers, a saw mill and planer, the historic Anglican Church, the Kelsey Monument, the old Catholic Church, gardens north of "53" full of flowers and vegetables, a modern airport, beautiful Clearwater Lake, the wonderful lakes, fishing and scenery in and about the Cranberry Portage area, Baker's Narrows, Flin Flon, a prosperous,

progressive mining town of over 12,000 people built on solid rock, special seasonal attractions in the form of a winter Trappers Festival at The Pas, and a summer Trout Festival at Flin Flon, and too many other attractions to mention here.

Accommodations and facilities are favourably comparable with all operations making steady improvements.

The area is adequately serviced and accessible by daily buses, commercial airlines, Canadian National Railways and a scenic public highway No. 10. Float equipped aircraft are ready to take the adventurous fisherman to secluded virgin lakes.

The peoples of Northern Manitoba are generally looked upon as friendly and co-operative and may well be termed "Good Hosts".

It is a most important factor in the encouragement of Tourists that the people in and about the area be interested in the visitors welfare and help them with authentic information whenever possible.

All these things are important to the visitor and make his or her visit to Northern Manitoba one long to be remembered accompanied by the desire to return.

All the tourist operators in Northern Manitoba ask that you yourself become a "Goodwill Ambassador" for the Friendly North.

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## CARD OF THANKS

The Queen committee would like to acknowledge with thanks, the following firms and business houses who have made possible through their support, a beautiful fur robe for the queen during the crowning ceremonies. — Lamb Airways, Avenue Hotel, Hudson Bay Plumbing Co., Smith's Grocery, Warner's Lunch & Grill and Robinson's Store.



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**THE PAS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**"WORKING FOR THE NORTH"**

President: J. G. James



# Royal Tea

Now a tradition of Northern Manitoba Trappers Festivals, the Royal Fur Queen's Tea and Fur Fashion Show will highlight the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 27th. Here in the friendly atmosphere of a northern tea, will be presented the latest in fur stylings, with lovely models displaying the final accomplishment of a trapper's life—the completion of the north's finest mink, muskrat, squirrel and beaver into milady's greatest adornment, a coat or stole.

Present at the event, which will be held in Guy Hall commencing at 2 p.m. will be the Queen and her Court together with their chaperones.

General convenor will be Peggy Green with special assistance from Connie Morrison and AnnaBelle Cameron as joint convenors of the Fur Fashion Show.

To the soft music of the Festival Hammond Organ, with Joyce Colgan, organist, the fur fashions will be displayed by attractive models. Arrangements have been made by Bill and Connie Morrison of Kerr's Furs, The Pas with southern fur houses for the coats, etc. on display. Master of Ceremonies will be Lyle McDiarmid and Belle Shklov will be commentator.

A very special mention here for the students of The Pas Indian Day School, who, under the direction of Rev. O. Lamb and staff have created the Festival theme table decorations.

The tea will commence at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27 with two fur showings—at 2:45 and 3:30.



Flin Flon and Gillam get together at the 1957 Festival, as above Joyce Kendal, Miss Flin Flon, talks things over with Betty Peterson, Miss Mid Canada.

## Festival Follies

Here's a musical "must" for Festival visitors—the big Variety Concert, especially designed to depict the heartiness, friendliness and good-fellowship of the north.

Staged in the Lido Theatre on Wednesday afternoon and evening and on Thursday evening, Feb. 26 and 27, this year the Festival Follies will be jam-packed with entertainment. The Pas is mighty proud of it's own Ladies' Glee Club which plans, produces and forms the complete musical background of this annual, local event.

This year the Club's guest artists will be the Deep River Boys—a return engagement for this talented group of singers who won the hearts of Festival visitors and townspeople last year with their whole-hearted participation in the Festival. Old-time favorites and modern hits—all done with the Deeps' own



# THE NORTHERN MAIL

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28th Year.

The Pas, Man., Feb. 26-27-28, 1958.

—No. 8

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# Thompson

## Manitoba

At Thompson, 400 miles north of Winnipeg, The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, is developing what is to be the second largest nickel-producing operation in the world. Before the 1957 spring break-up, tractor trains hauled approximately 30,000 tons of equipment and supplies into the area to allow for construction and development during the summer.

In October, a 30 mile rail spur was completed from Sipiweesk on the C.N.R. Hudson Bay Line to Thompson. Construction of a 22 mile railway between the two mines at Thompson and at Moak Lake began last autumn. Sinking of a production and a development shaft is underway at Thompson Mine. Lateral development of the Moak Lake Mine has commenced from the exploration shaft sunk in 1955, and a construction pilot raise is being driven.

A mill, smelter and refinery are being erected at Thompson to treat the ores from both mines. Ground has been cleared and work on foundations is progressing with steel erection scheduled to begin early in 1958.

A townsite will be constructed at Thompson for approximately 8,000 people.

The Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board is building a dam and power plant on the Nelson River to service Inco's properties. Initial production of nickel will begin in 1960 and will reach the rated capacity of 75,000,000 pounds of refined nickel per year by January 1961.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$175,000,000, of which Inco's share is to be \$115,000,000.



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In the fall, fishing is forgotten and hunters and sportsmen turn their attention to the duck and geese hunts. Above a nice shoot "North of '53, in Manitoba".

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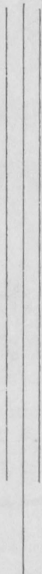
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**FLIN FLON**  
**Manitoba**



# When The Ice-Worms Nest Again

This selection is available for public performance  
in the U. S. A. by permission of Broadcast Music, Inc.

Words and Music by  
MONA SYMINGTON  
MARION WILLIAMSON  
JOYCE KOLGAN

Brightly

1 There's a - husk - y dusk - y maid - en in the arc - tic,  
2 Oh, the wed - din' feast will be seal oil and blub - ber,  
3 And when all the blink - in' ice - bergs bound a - round us,

In her ig - loo she's wait - in' there in vain,  
In our kay - aks we'll roam the bound - less main,  
She'll pre - sent me with a bounce - in' ba - by boy,

Oh, I guess I'll put my muk - luks on and ask her,  
How the wal - rus - es will turn their necks to rub - ber,  
All the pol - ar bears will dance a ram - ba 'round us,

If she'll wed me WHEN THE ICEWORMS NEST A - GAIN,  
We'll be hap - py WHEN THE ICEWORMS NEST A - GAIN,  
And the wal - rus - es will click their teeth with joy.

Chorus  
In the land of the pale blue snow, Where it's nine - ty - nine be - low, And the  
pol - ar bears are roam - in' o'er the plain In the shad - ow of the  
pole I will clasp her to my soul, We'll be hap - py WHEN THE  
ICEWORMS NEST A - GAIN. 2 Oh, the GAIN.  
3 And when's

*DS al Fine*  
*UP Sal Fine*



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